GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:354
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
DAIRY INDUSTRY
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking steps to protect the Rs.5,000 crore domestic dairy industry in view of the reports of imported milk products flooding the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of these products do not conform to standards laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(d) if so, the details of imported milk products which did not conform to the standards laid down in the law;

(e) whether some of these imported products were found to be containing animal rennet which is banned in India;

(f) if so, the details of any enquiry conducted in this regard; and

(g) the steps taken to prevent them for entering the India market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.354 T
ANSWERED ON 16th AUGUST, 2001

(a) to (g). India has been removing restrictions on imports in a phased manner since 1991. In this process import restrictions on some items of milk and milk products were removed on 31.3.2000 and others on 31.3.2001. Total imports of milk products have in fact started declining and were of the order of Rs.4808.64 lakhs during 2000-2001 as against Rs.18040.68 lakhs in 1999-2000.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has reported some incidents of import ofmilk products like cheese, butter, cream and UHT milk in consumer packs not conforming to some of labeling provisions and declaration of Maximum Retail Priceunder the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977.Use of animal rennet is not banned under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1995.

The following corrective actions have been taken:

i. Ministry of Health which is the administrative Ministry for PFA Act and Rules, has instructed all the State Governments to exercise vigil to ensure that the quality of all food articles whether imported or indigenously produced and marketed, are subject to regular checking to ensure that the quality of food items, whether imported or indigenously produced, sold in the market conform to the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955.

ii. Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide notification dated 24.11.2000 has ordered that all such packaged products, which are subject to provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 when produced/packed/sold in domestic market, shall be subject to compliance of all the provisions of the said rules, when imported into India.

iii. The Department of Revenue vide letter dated 13.3.2001 addressed to all Chief Commissioners of Customs and all Chief Commissioners of Custom and Central Excise has instructed to issue instructions to their subordinate officers to take adequate care in disposal of such uncleared cargo of food items and to ensure that it conforms to all the requirements under PFA Act before these are cleared for home consumption. It has also been instructed that price for disposal of such goods should fixed considering the market price of such goods so that the interests of consumer/industry duly protected.

iv. Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, on its part, has also, vide Notification published vide S.O.No.655 (E) dated 7th July, 2001restricted, with effect from the date of publication of this notification, the import into India of all livestock products including milk and milk products.